

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

On page 1, before line 3, insert the following new paragraph:

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a division of U.S. Application Serial No. 10/341,234, filed on January 13, 2003, which is now U.S. Patent No. _____, which is a continuation of U.S. Application Serial No. 09/873,682, filed on June 4, 2001, now U.S. Patent No. 6,505,768, which is a continuation of U.S. Application Serial No. 09/351,534, which was filed on July 12, 1999, now U.S. Patent No. 6,264,087, each of which is expressly incorporated herein in its entirety by reference thereto.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 6, line 25 and continuing to page 7, line 3, with the following new paragraph:

In addition to the motor components, the handle further includes several other features, including: (1) a remote status indicator; (2) a shaft steering means; and (3) at least one additional electrical supply. First, the remote status indicator may comprise an LCD (or similar read out device) by which the user may gain knowledge of the position of components (for example whether a clamping element is in the proper position prior to the driving of the staples). Second, the handle also includes a manually actuateable steering means, for example, a joystick or track ball, for directing the movement of the flexible shaft (by means of guidewaves implanted in the shaft portion described more fully hereinbelow). Finally, the handle may include an additional electrical power supply and an on off switch for selectively supplying electrical power to the attachments.

On page 9, after line 32, insert the following new paragraph:

Figure 5A is another cutaway view of the closed disposition of the linear clamping, cutting and stapling attachment shown in Figures 3 - 6, which is an aspect of the present invention;